AFTERSHOCK™
JUSTIN JORDAN • JUAN GEDEON
#1
STRAYER™
TAMRA BONVILLAIN • RACHEL DEERING

STRAYER

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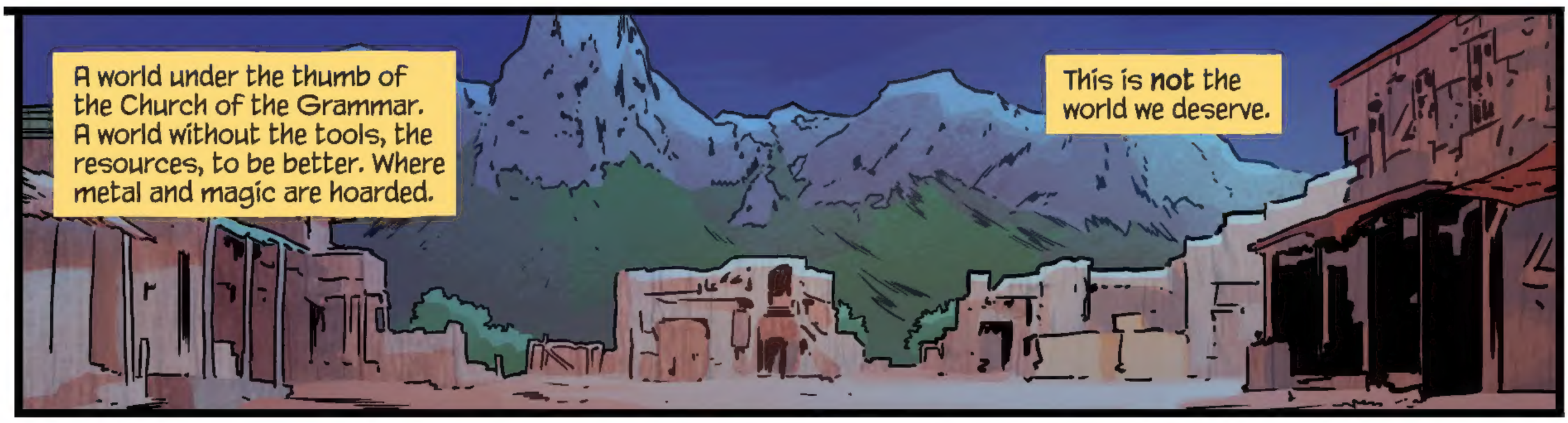
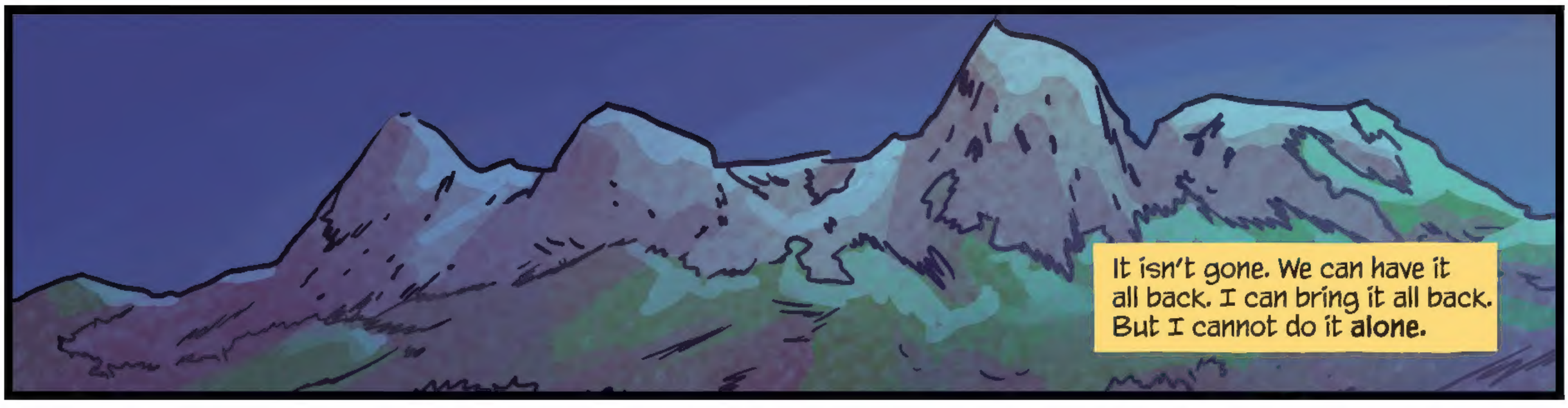

A world under the thumb of the Church of the Grammar. A world without the tools, the resources, to be better. Where metal and magic are hoarded.
This is **not** the world we deserve.

The world wasn't always this way. The Old High Ones reached peaks of power of which we can scarcely conceive.
Theirs was a time of legends. This was the time of dreams.

But all dreams **end.**

The power of the Old High Ones was locked away. And we have had to survive what they left behind with what they left behind.
But here is the **secret truth** of our world--


It isn't gone. We can have it all back. I can bring it all back. But I cannot do it **alone.**

So what do you say?

CHUG

BRUUUP

About what?

...

The High help me.

What?
I said, I need you to help me.
Sure. I'm **Brun.** Not a person around who doesn't know who I am. Been to Lalland more times than I can count.
Killed more Kasha than I can count. And you need protection, won't be anybody better.
Of course, I'll need to **get paid.**
If you help me, the time of dreams will come again. There will be riches beyond imagining. Surely that will be payment enough.
Can Brun buy brew with it?
I...
No.
I am going to need something a little better than dreams and promises. If you don't have money, I am sure we could work out some **other** arrangement.
GOOD NEWS!

Your problems are solved.
What problem is that, you fine folk may ask? Well, I know that out here in the Edgelands, you have a wide variety of problems to choose from. Bandits, raiders, Kashas and creepers. Perhaps even a **Titan** if your luck runs bad.
But **STRAYER** can kill all of those.

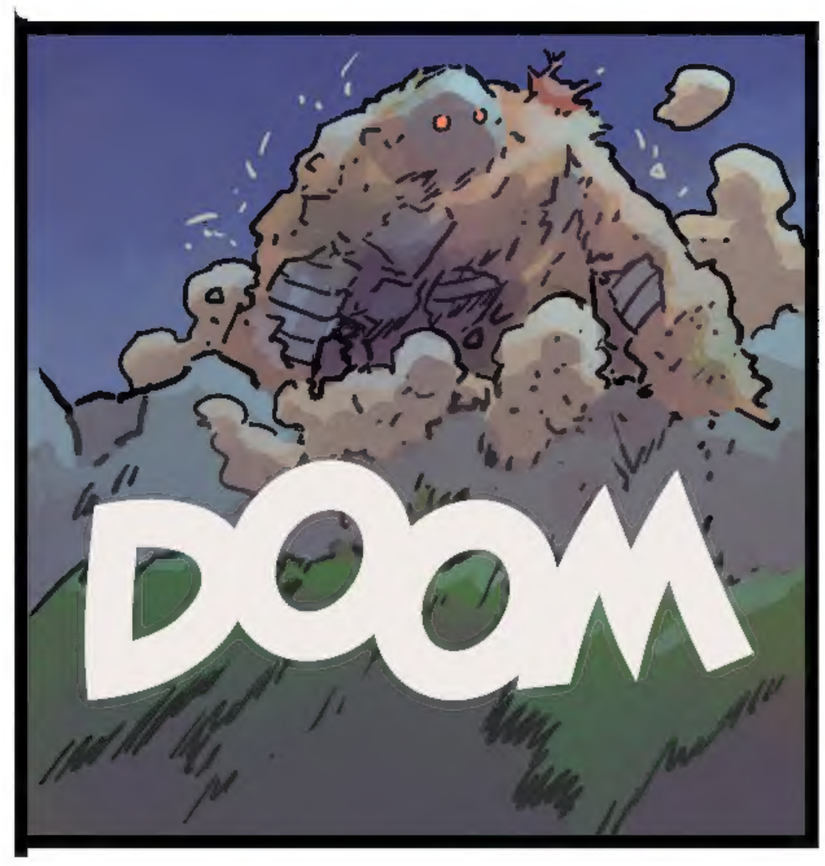
Er, that's me. Strayer.
Go fetch the Sher.

A comsys.

We're not done here. We were discussing terms and...

What the hells?
No.

RUMBLE

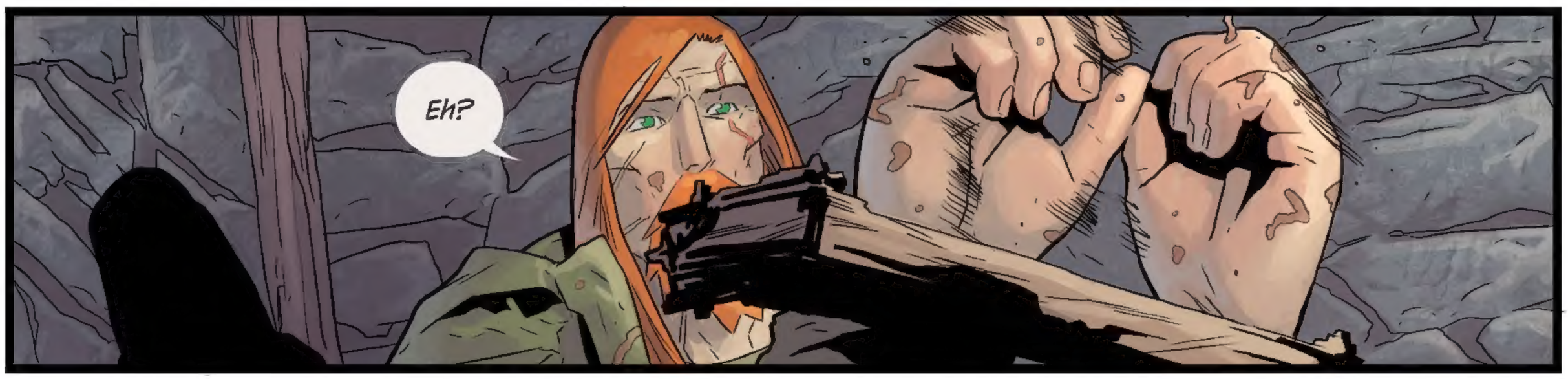

DOOM

You'd think they'd welcom--
THUNK
Damn.

Okay. Have it your way.

ZZZZZ...

DOOM


Eh?

Bastard.

Ah.
Well, there you go.
You...

...you knew. You and your friend. The girl. This is you.

I'm a bit light in the friend department. So no, just me.
So, you're the... Sher? Is that what they call you?

Did you bring it here...?

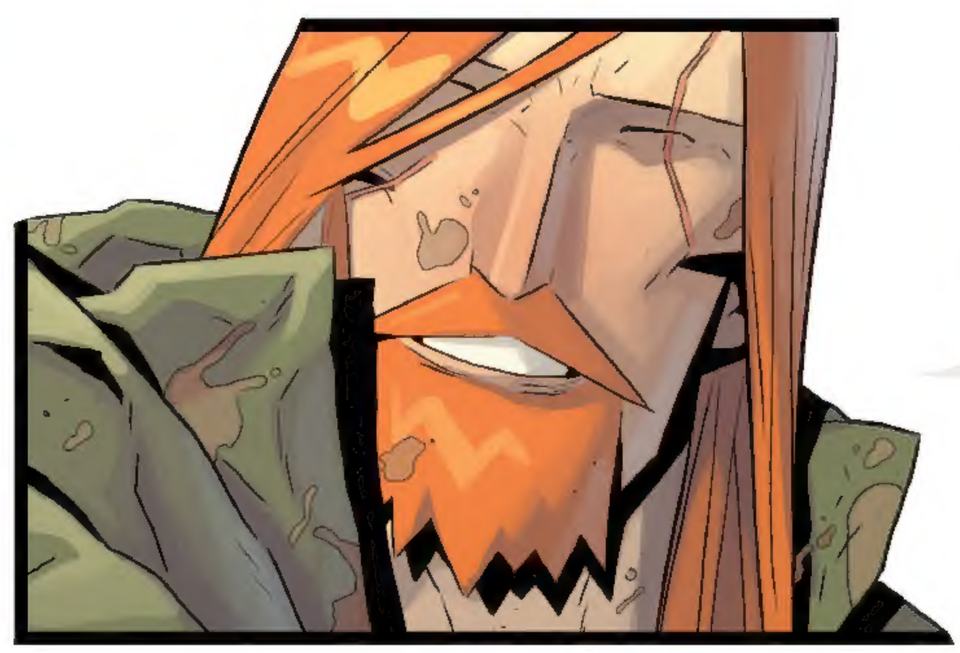
I have to admit, things are still a little fuzzy, but Titan summoning isn't one of my skills.

You couldn't have known.
I've heard that before, but I hear...
DOOM
...that, now.
Can you do what you said?
Well, it's here now, so I don't see that you have much to lose, unless you intend to leave me here to get flattened with the rest of the town.

I don't. I don't aim to let my town be destroyed, either. Let me get those off of you.

No need.

You...I... you could have done that anytime?
Yup.
But then... WHY?


Well, I needed some place warm to sleep, and your cell was cozier than most. Plus, honestly...

...I wanted you to ask me to help.
I can stop it. But...

You want to get paid.
I certainly hope so. Do you have my blades?

I don't know how drunk you were last night, if you think you had **blades.**
All you had was your clothes, and...

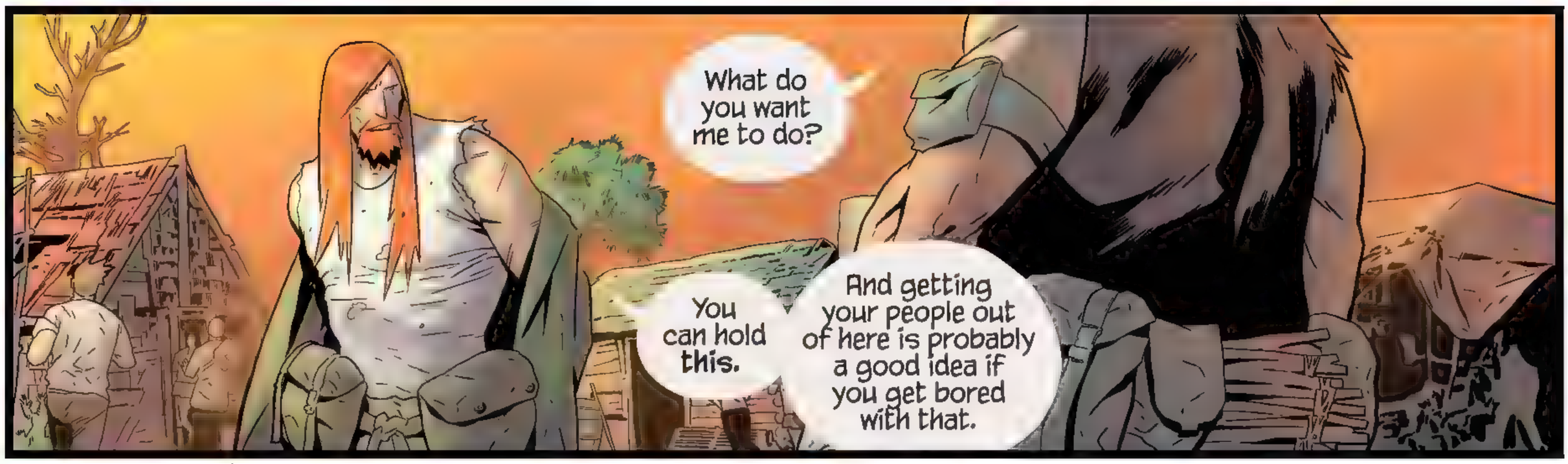
...these.

Are you intending to **punch** a Titan to death?

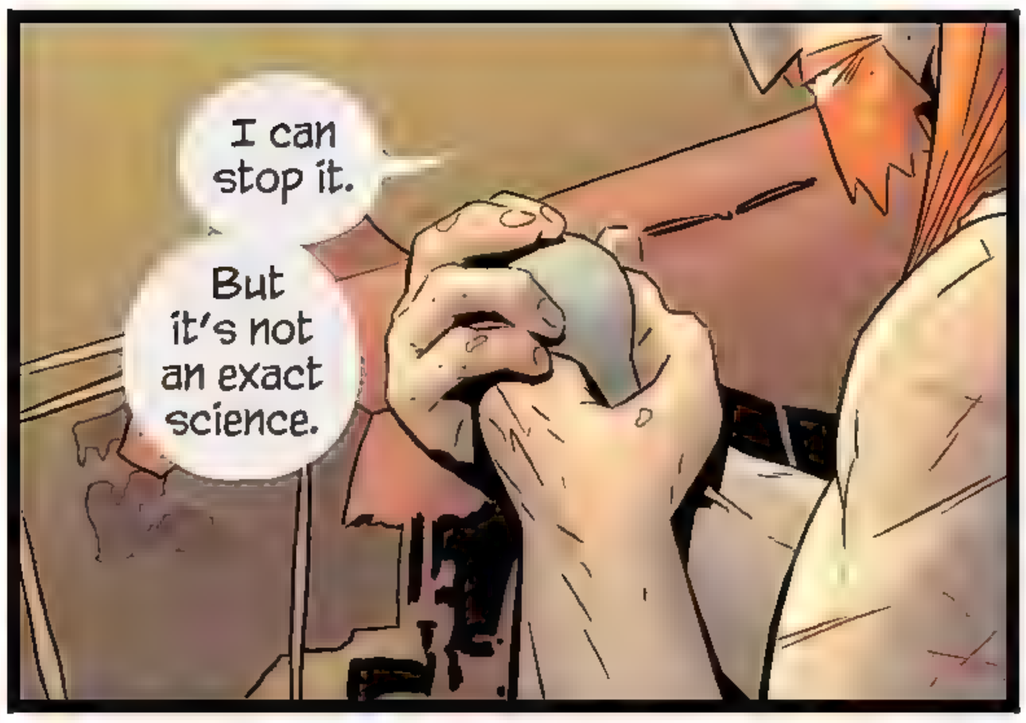
Something like that.

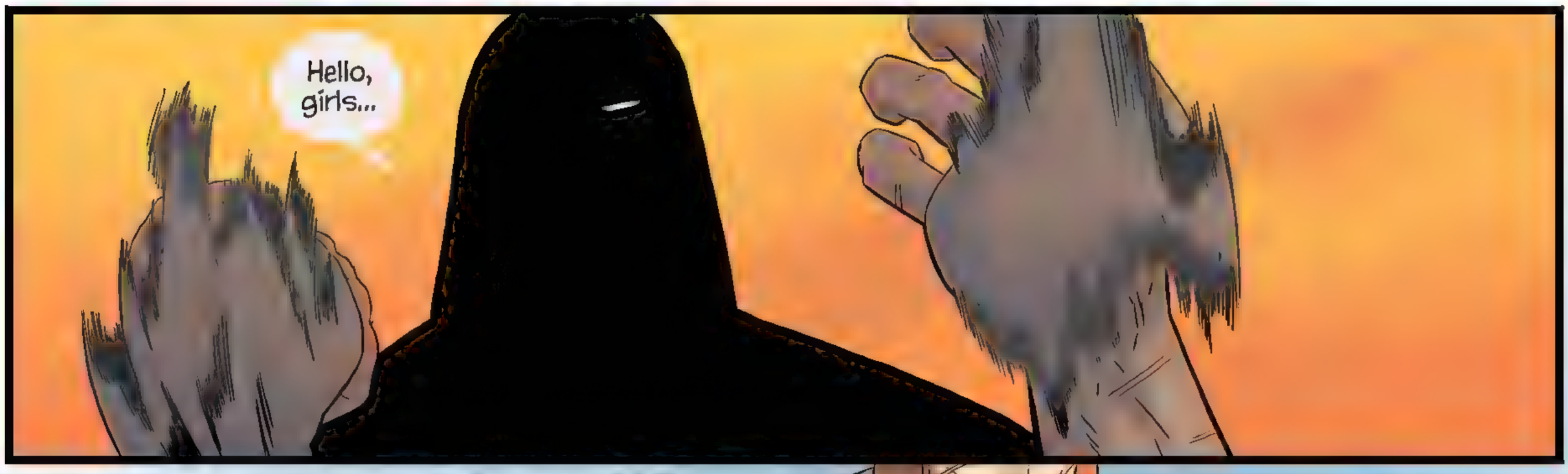
Well, I'm glad...

"...you didn't wait until it was close."


What do you want me to do?
You can hold this.
And getting your people out of here is probably a good idea if you get bored with that.

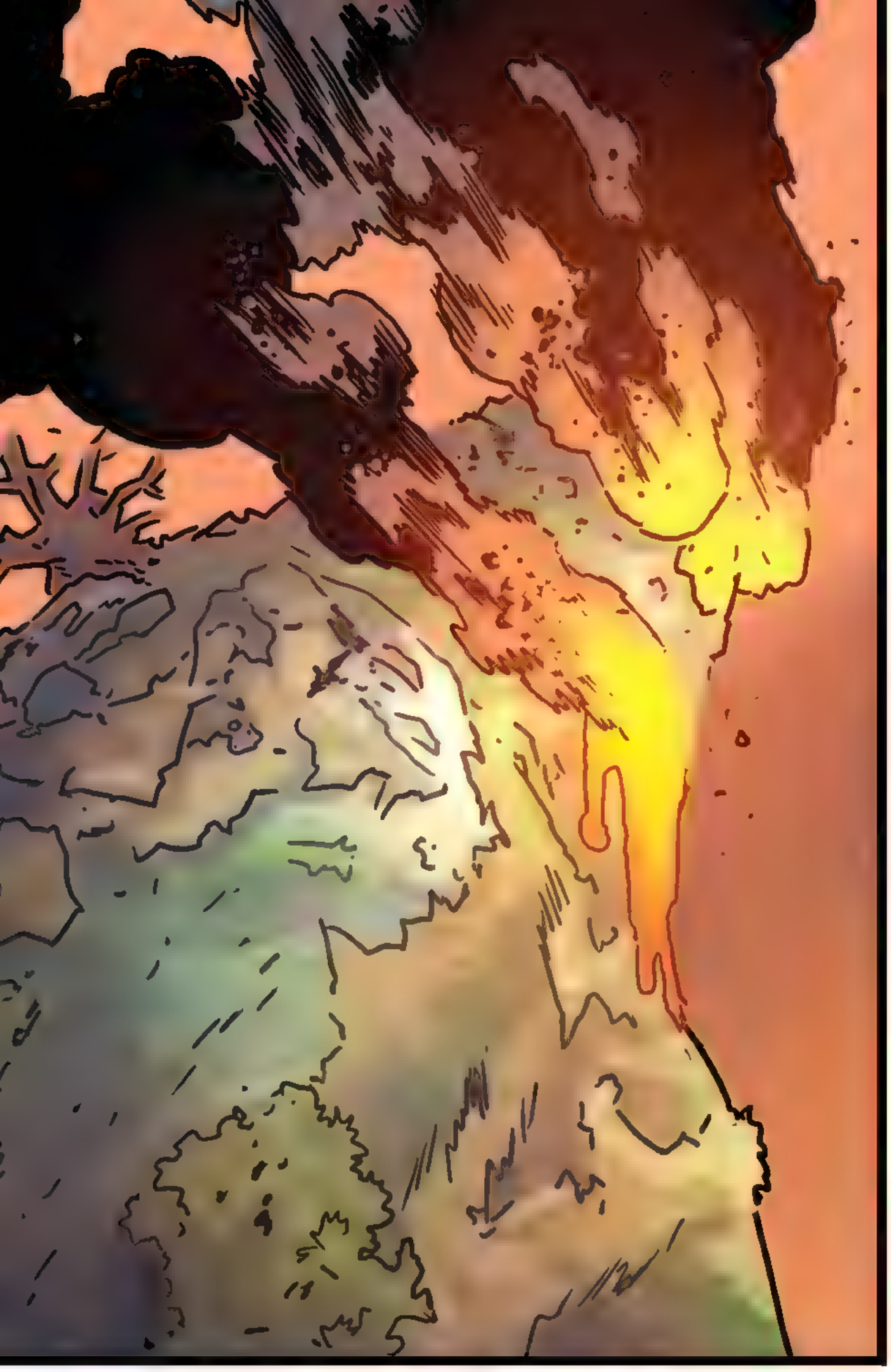
This town... we can't rebuild again. The Grammar's arbiters burned us out not five years back.


I can stop it.
But it's not an exact science.

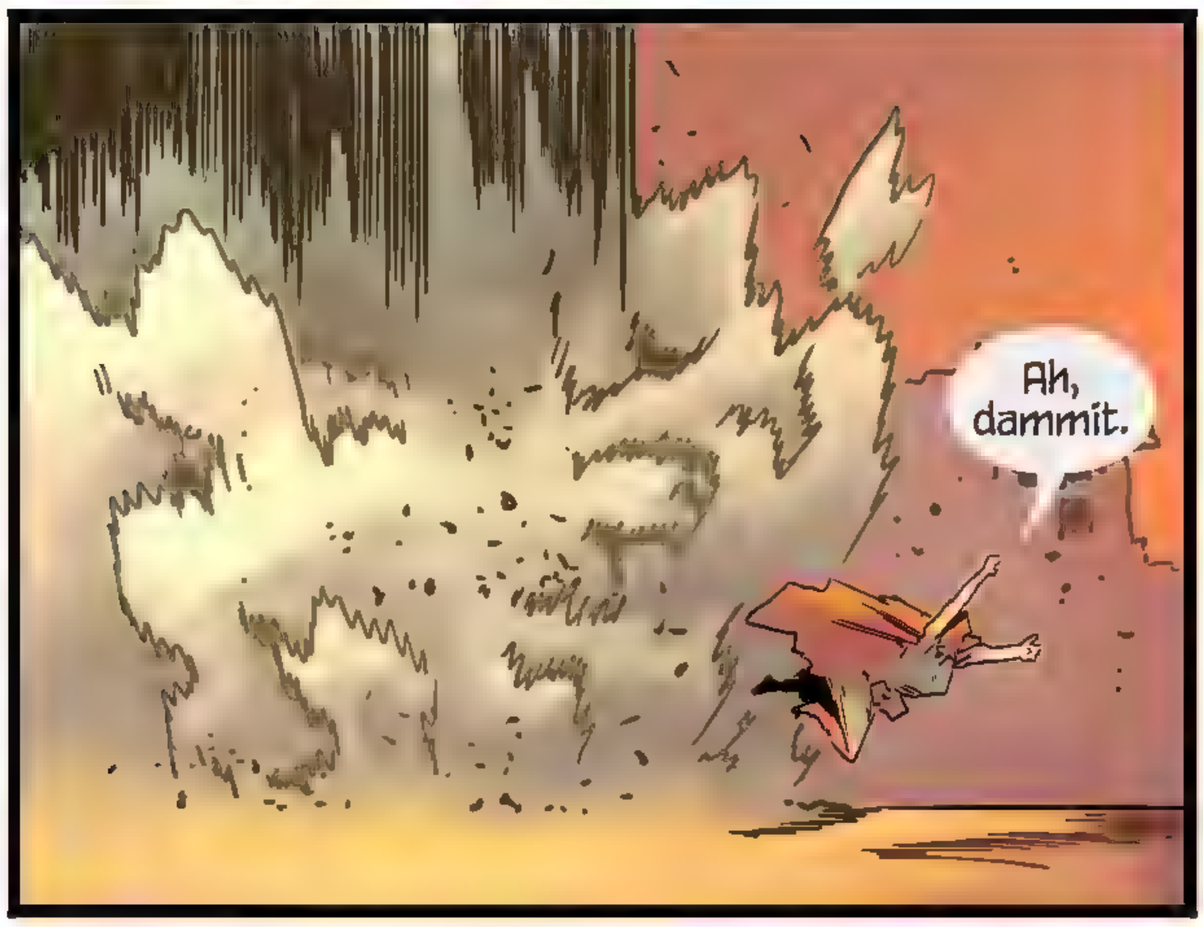

Hello, girls...

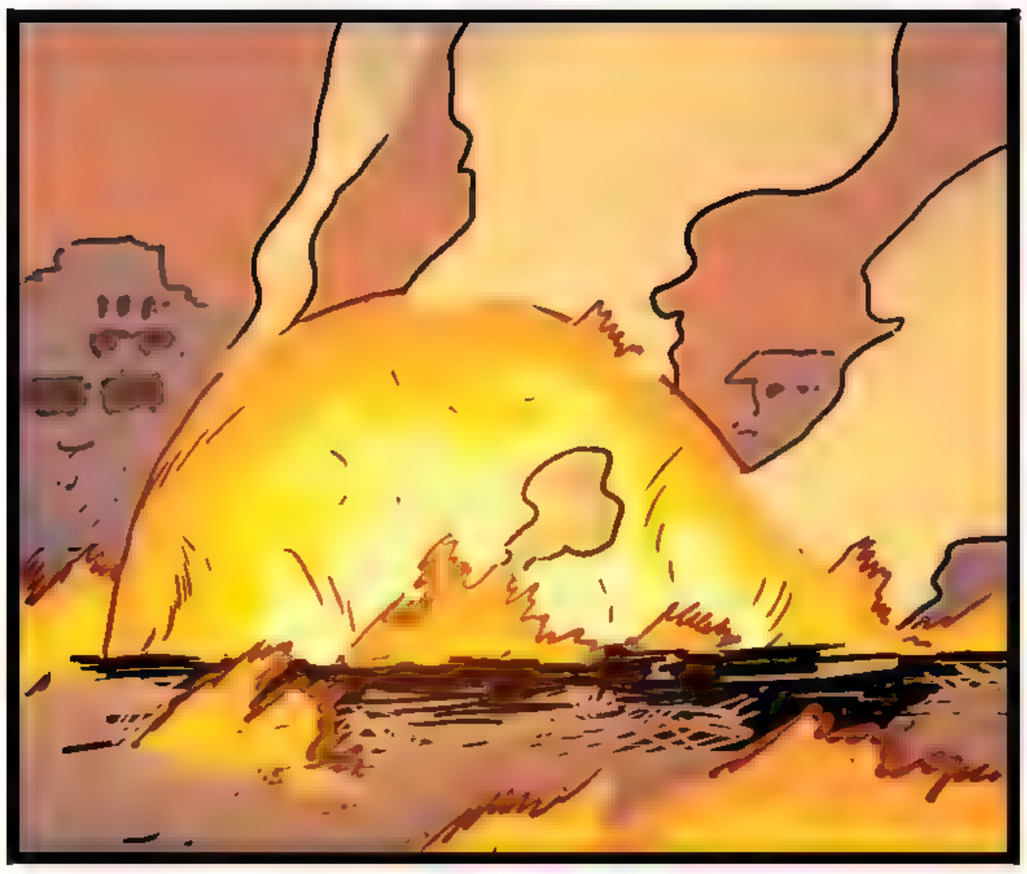
...it's good to have you back.

We have work to do.

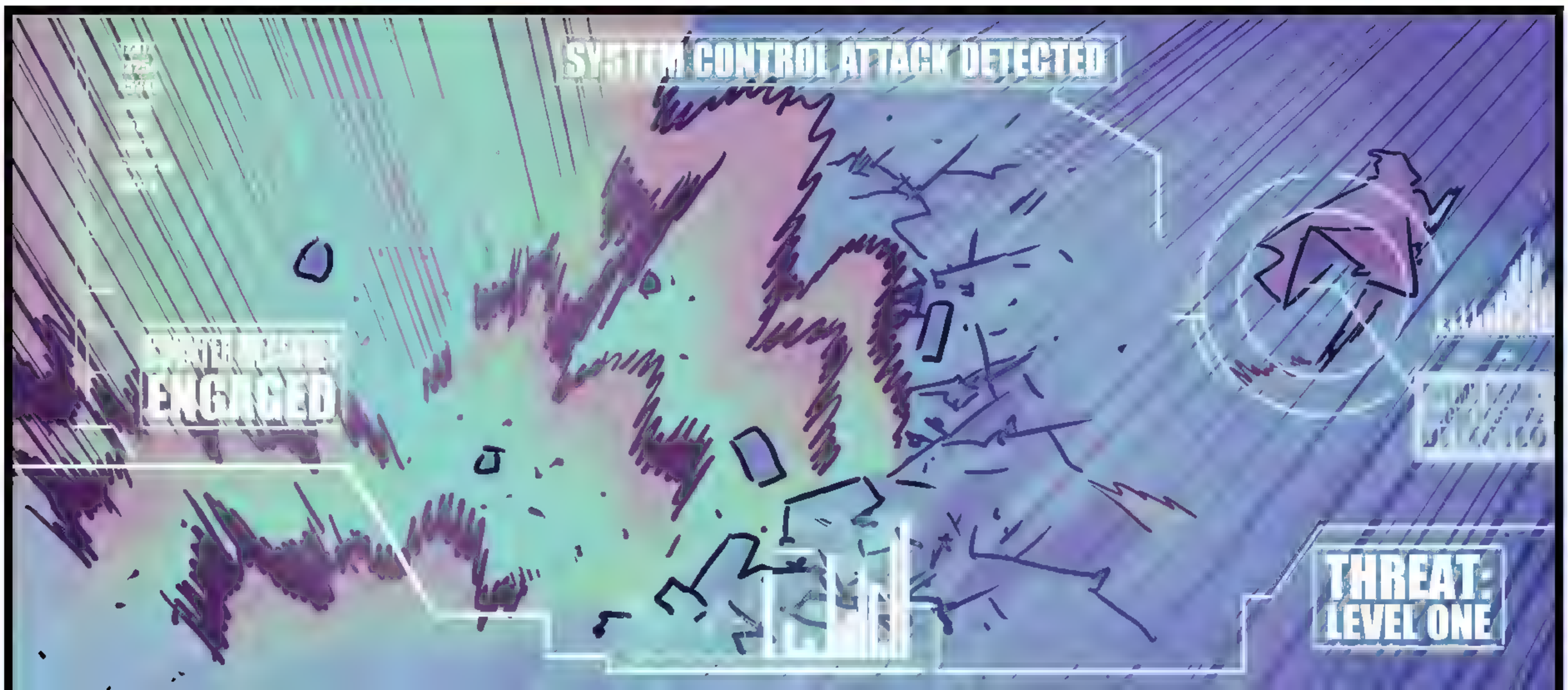


SYSTEM CONTROL ATTACK DETECTED
I command you
I command you
I command you
I--
ENGAGED
THREAT:
LEVEL ONE

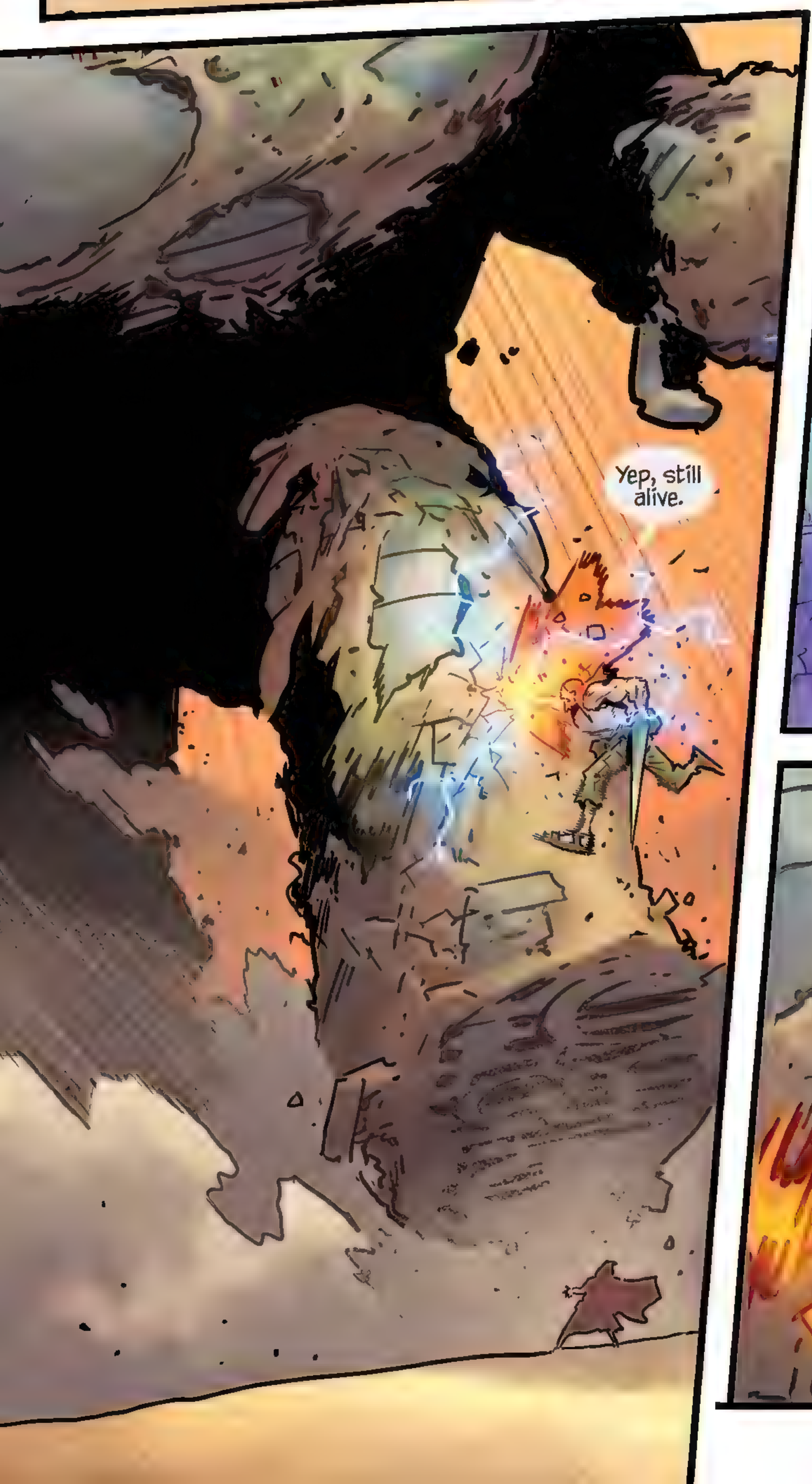

Ah,
dammit.

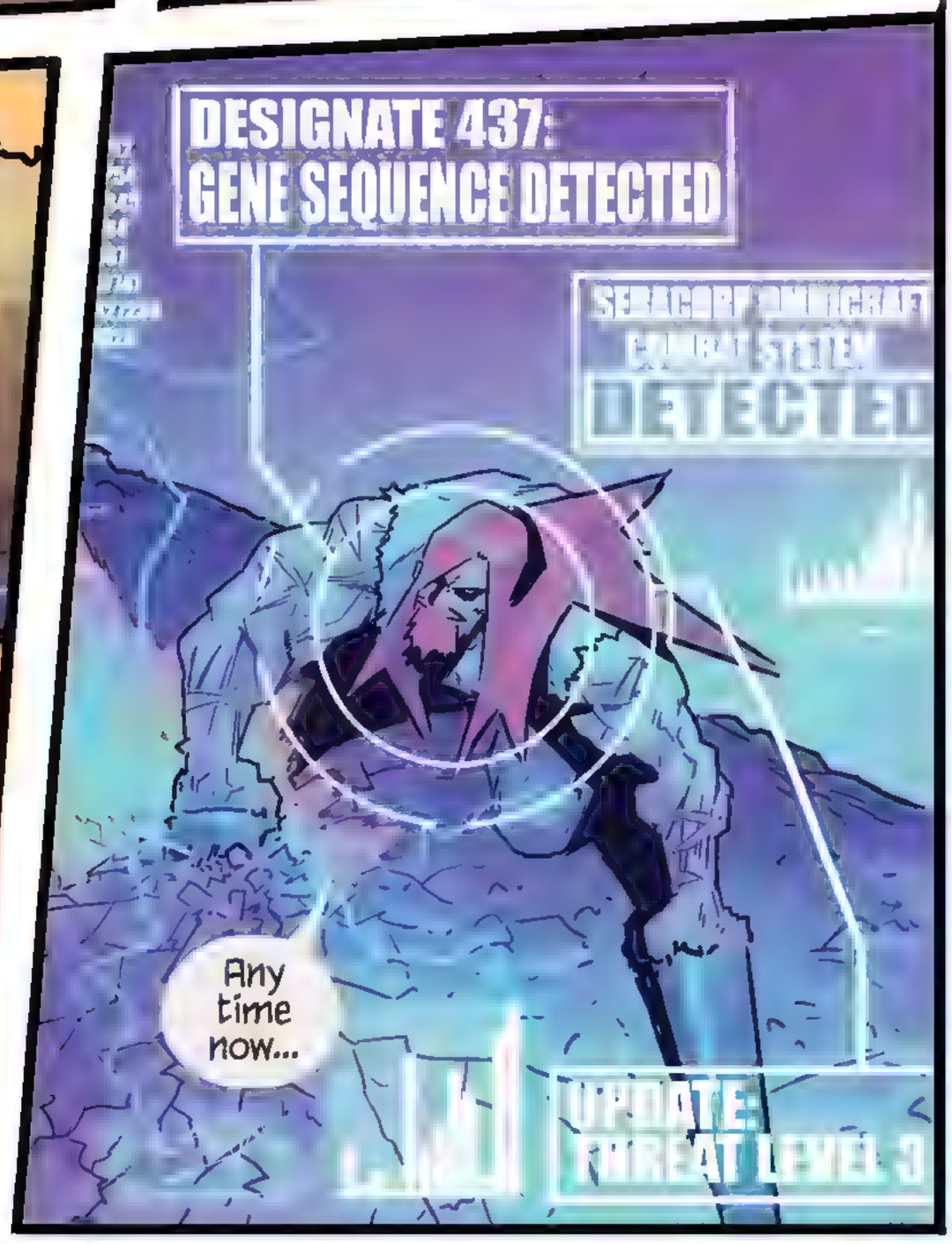


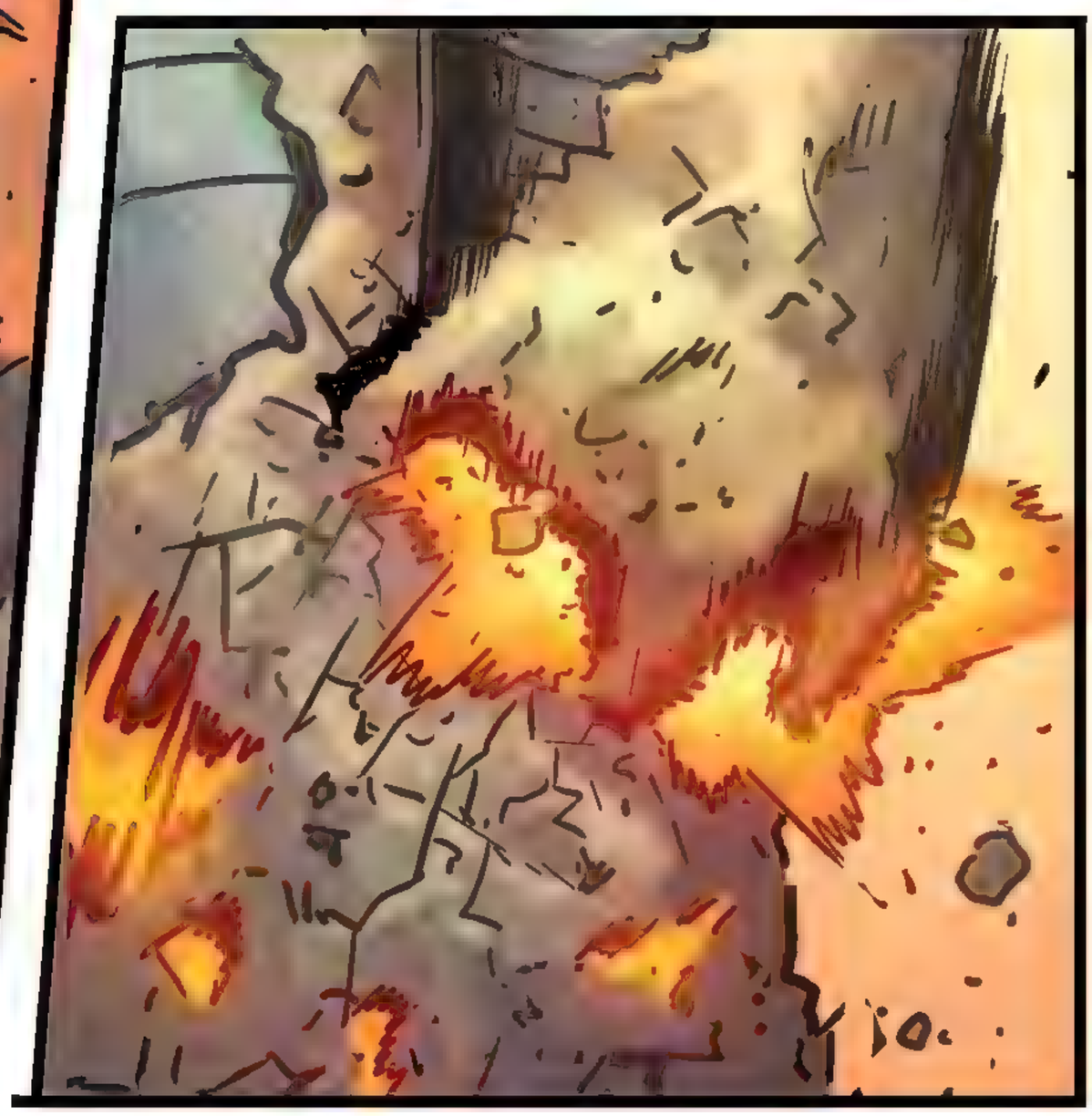
Heh.
Nice try.


SYSTEM CONTROL ATTACK DETECTED
ENGAGED
THREAT:
LEVEL ONE

How?

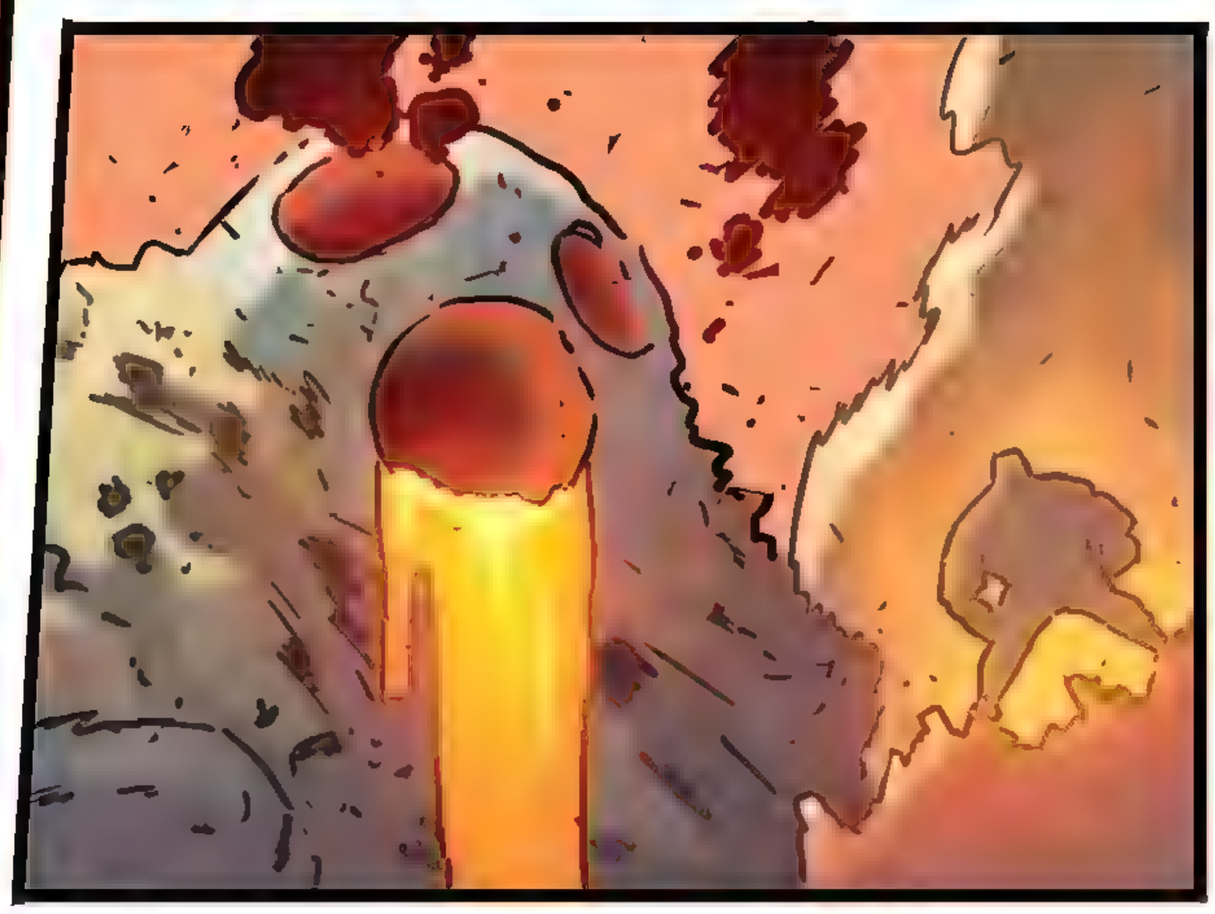

Yep, still alive.


DESIGNATE 437:
GENE SEQUENCE DETECTED
DETECTED
Any time now...
UPDATE:
THREAT LEVEL 3

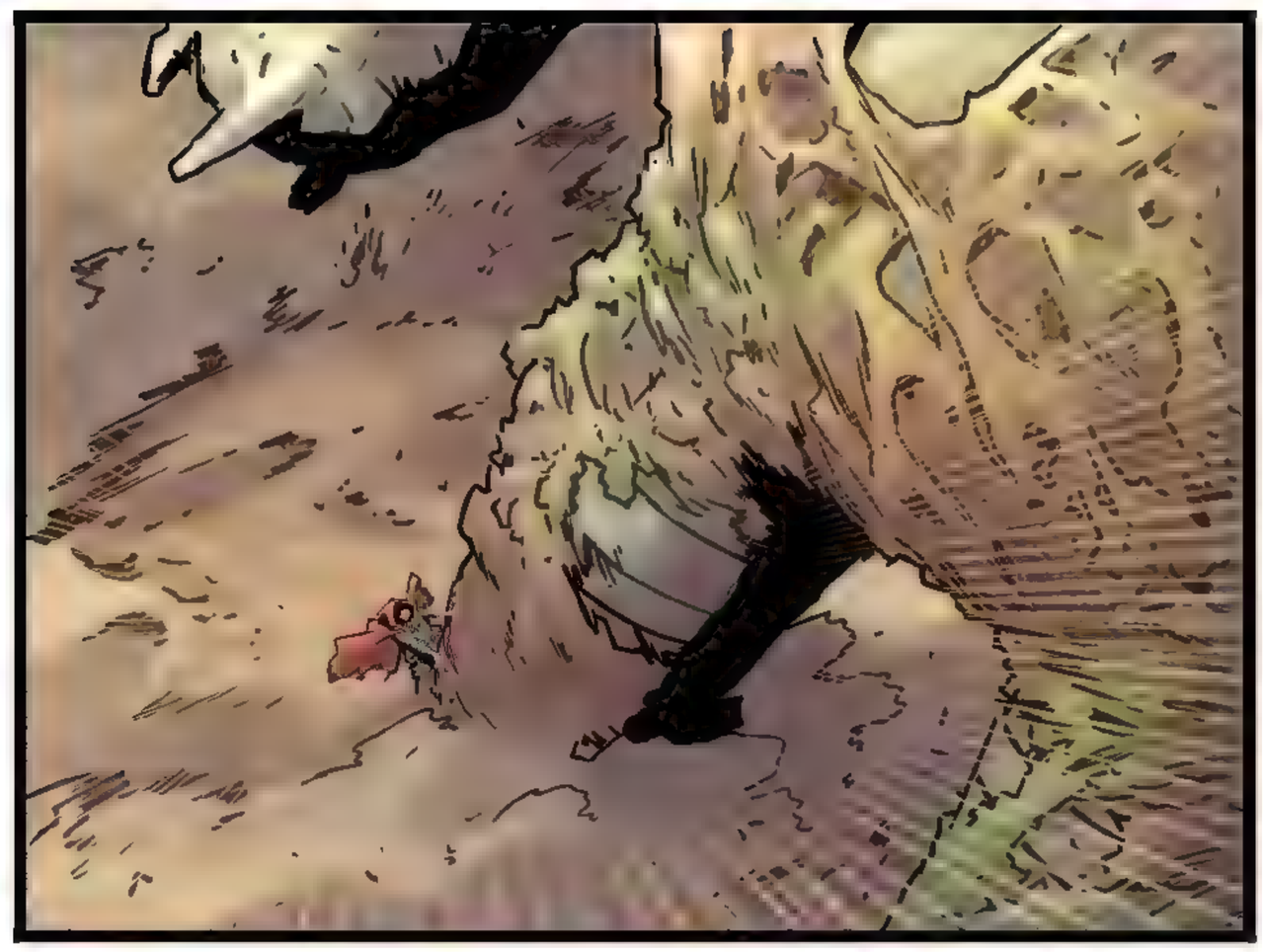


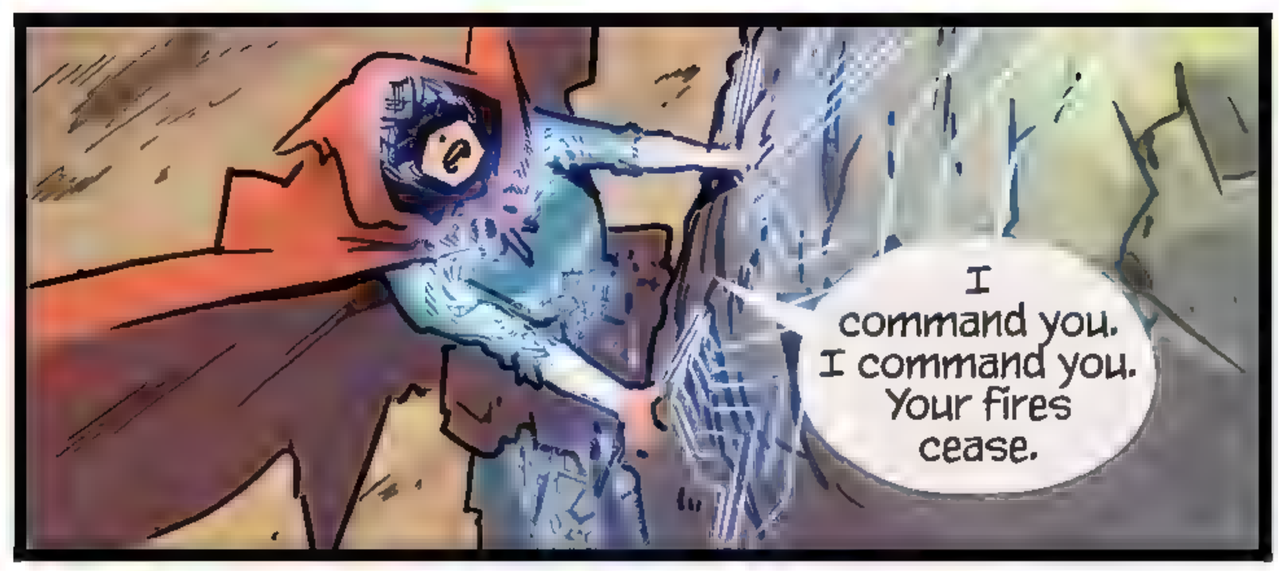
Hah, didn't see that coming?

UPDATE THREAT LEVEL 2

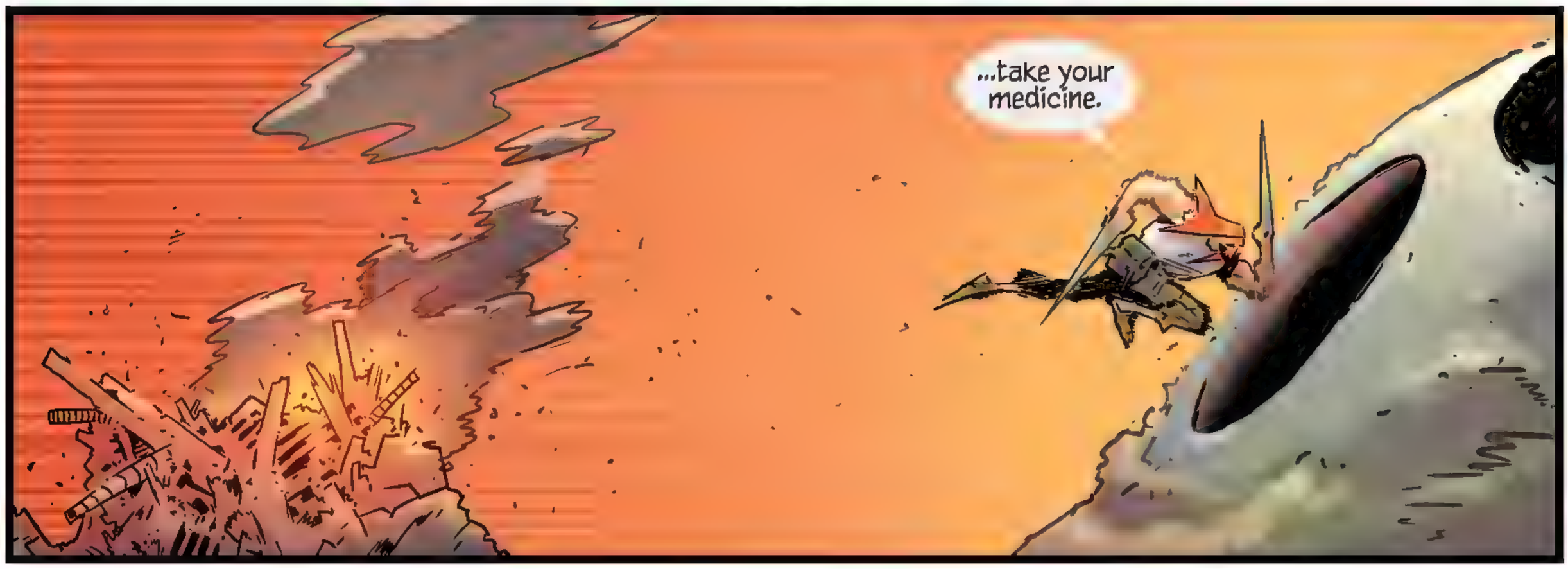


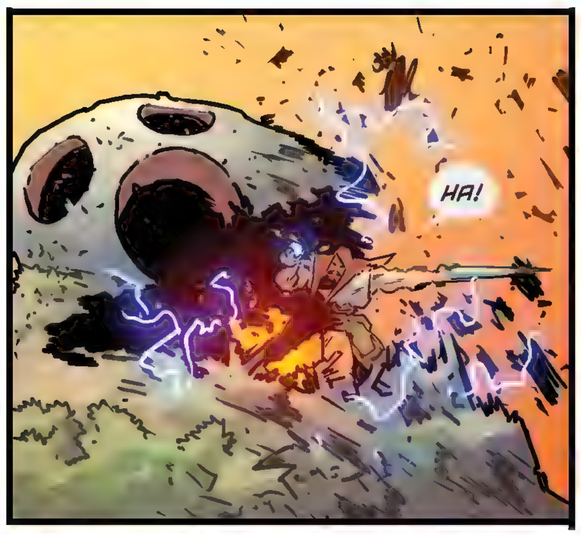
Huh.



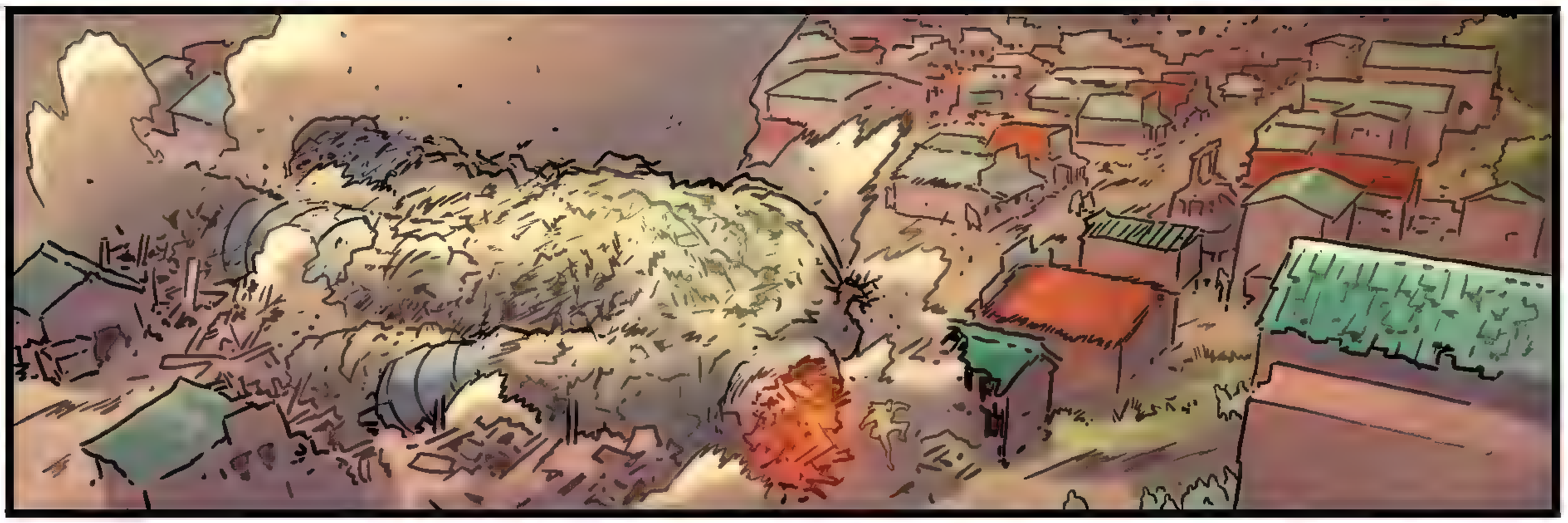

I command you. I command you. Your fires cease.

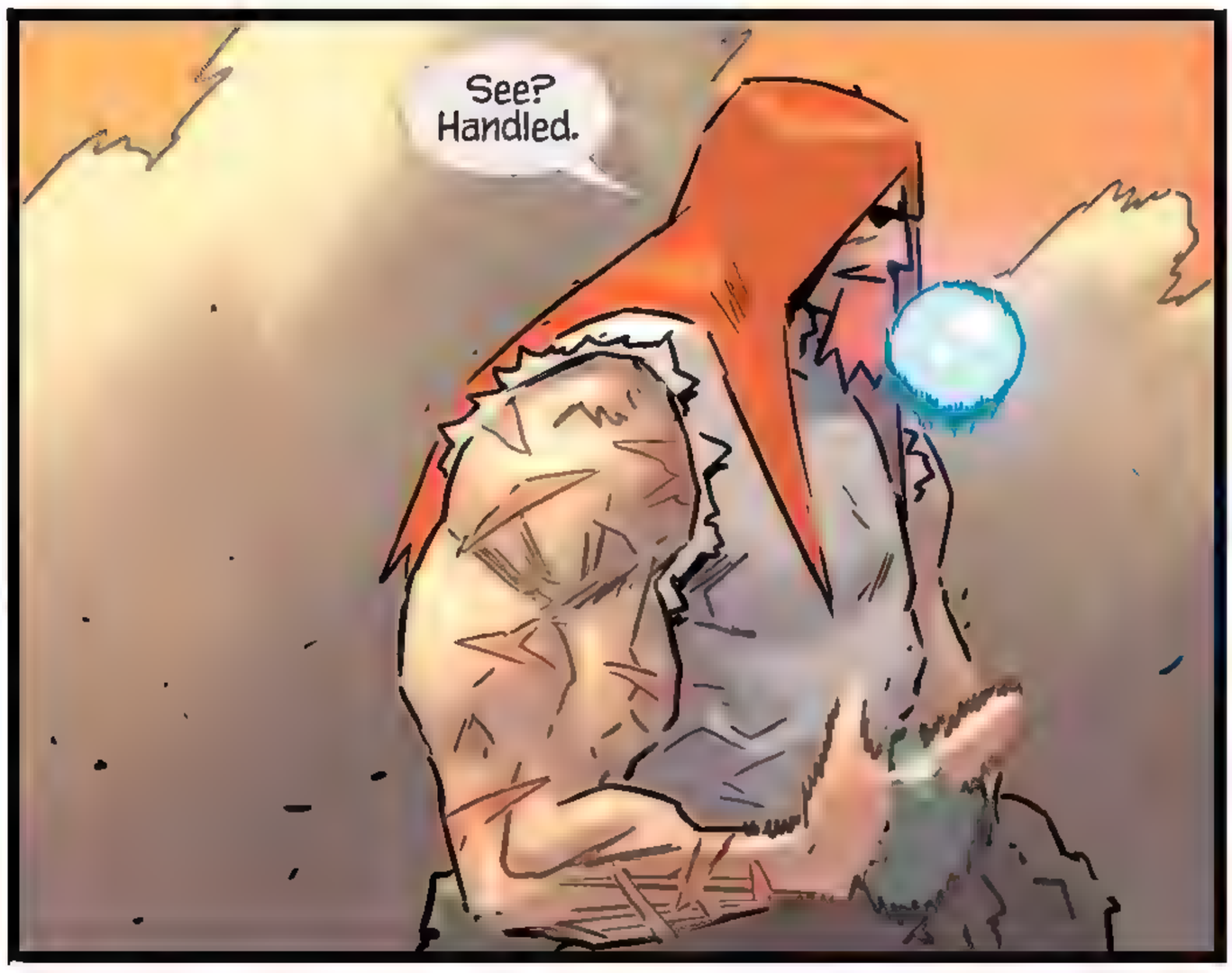
Open wide...
DANGER
UPDATE:
THREAT LEVEL 3


...take your medicine.



CRUNCH



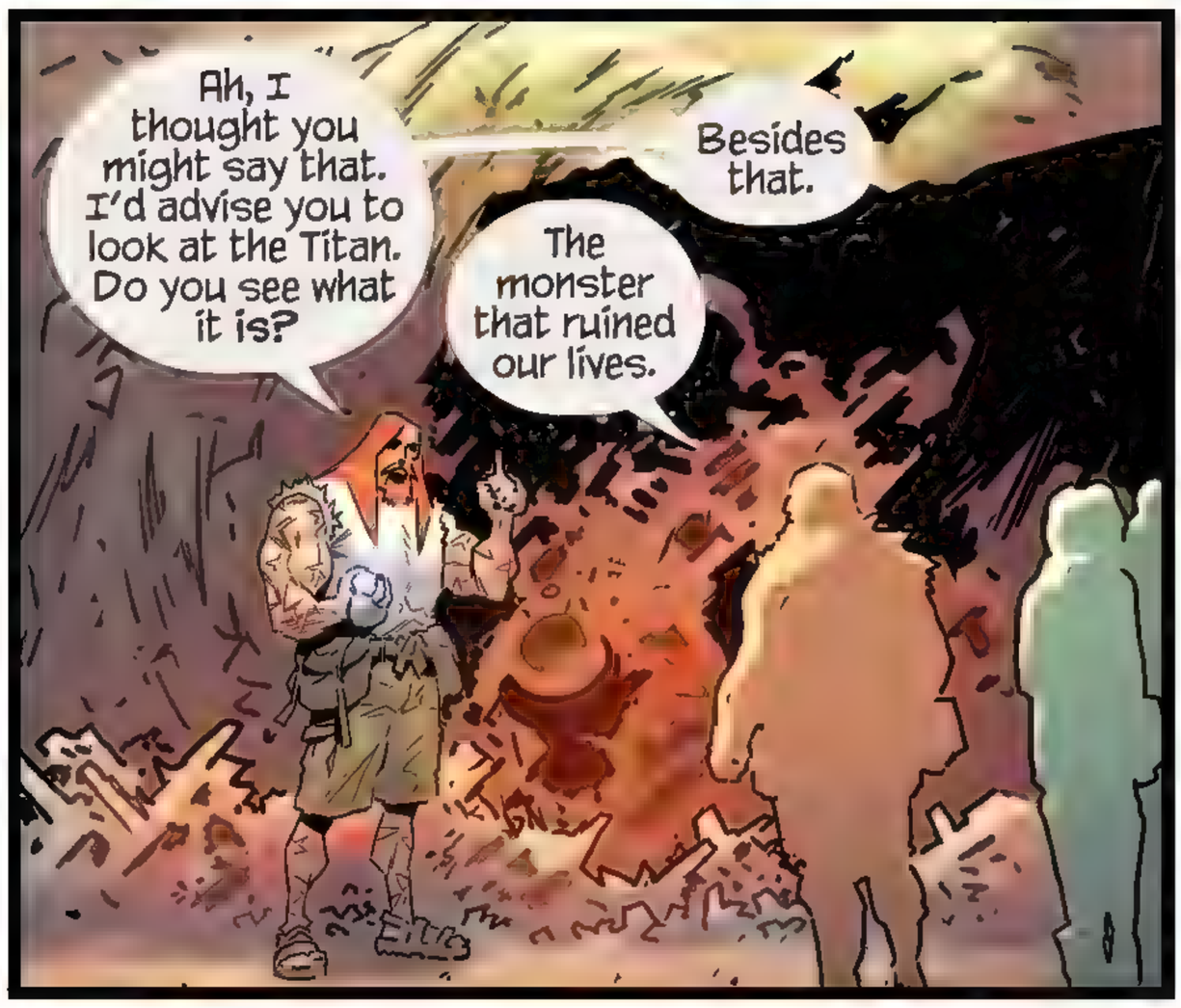

See? Handled.

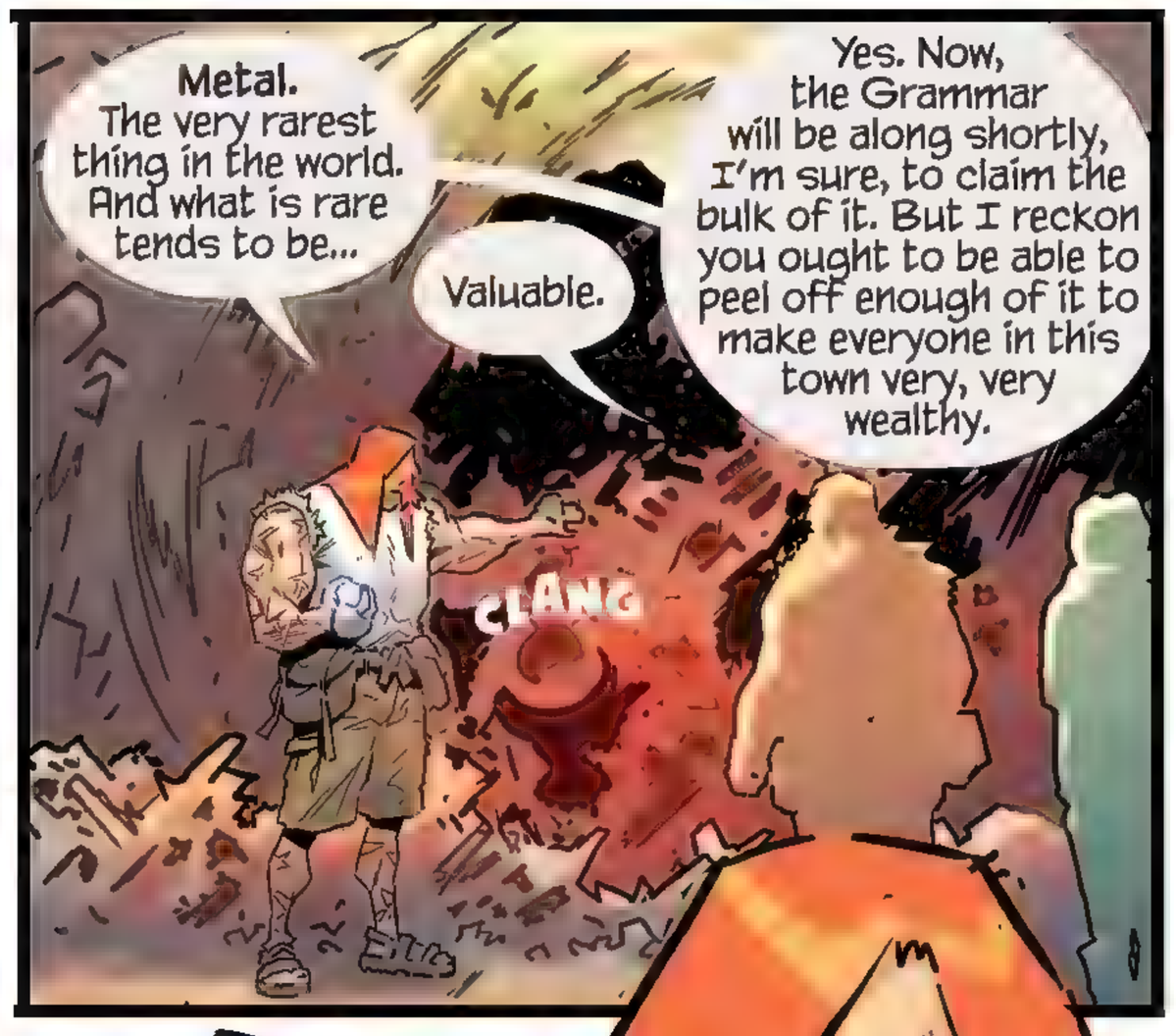
Bah. Easy.

What?

I...you... it....
You're welcome.
YOU FLATTENED OUR TOWN.

About my fee...
Your fee? YOUR FEE? YOU AND YOUR WITCH FLATTENED OUR TOWN!
You mentioned that. And I mentioned she's not my witch. She's also not here.
We don't have anything to pay you with.


Ah, I thought you might say that. I'd advise you to look at the Titan. Do you see what it is?
Besides that.
The monster that ruined our lives.

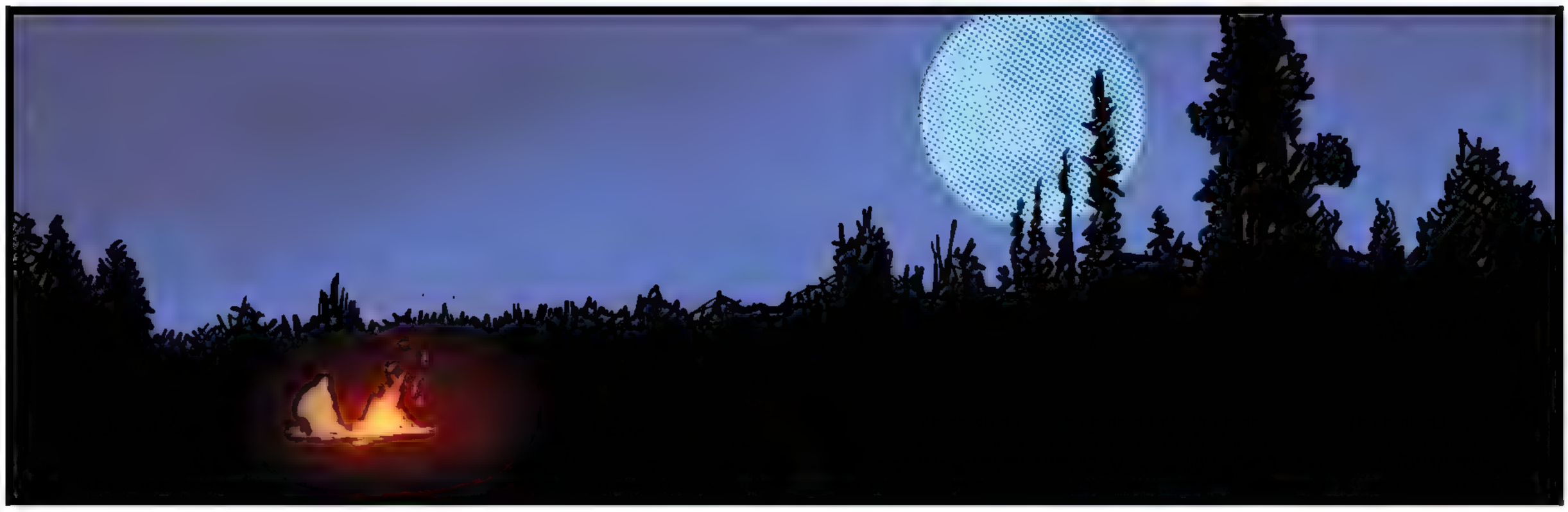

Metal. The very rarest thing in the world. And what is rare tends to be...
Valuable.
Yes. Now, the Grammar will be along shortly, I'm sure, to claim the bulk of it. But I reckon you ought to be able to peel off enough of it to make everyone in this town very, very wealthy.
CLANG

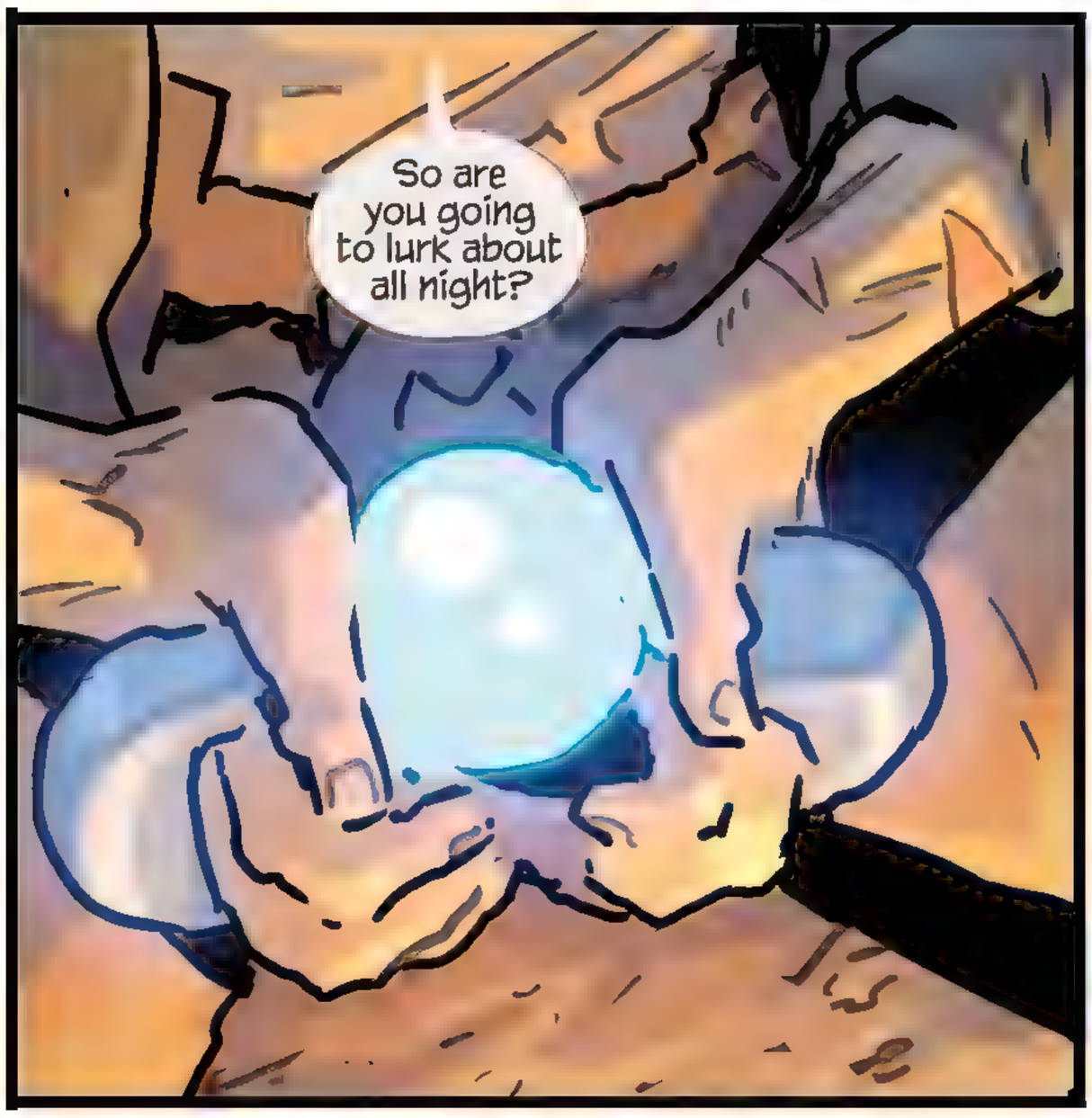
So yes, you are welcome. Now as to my fee...

...paid in full.

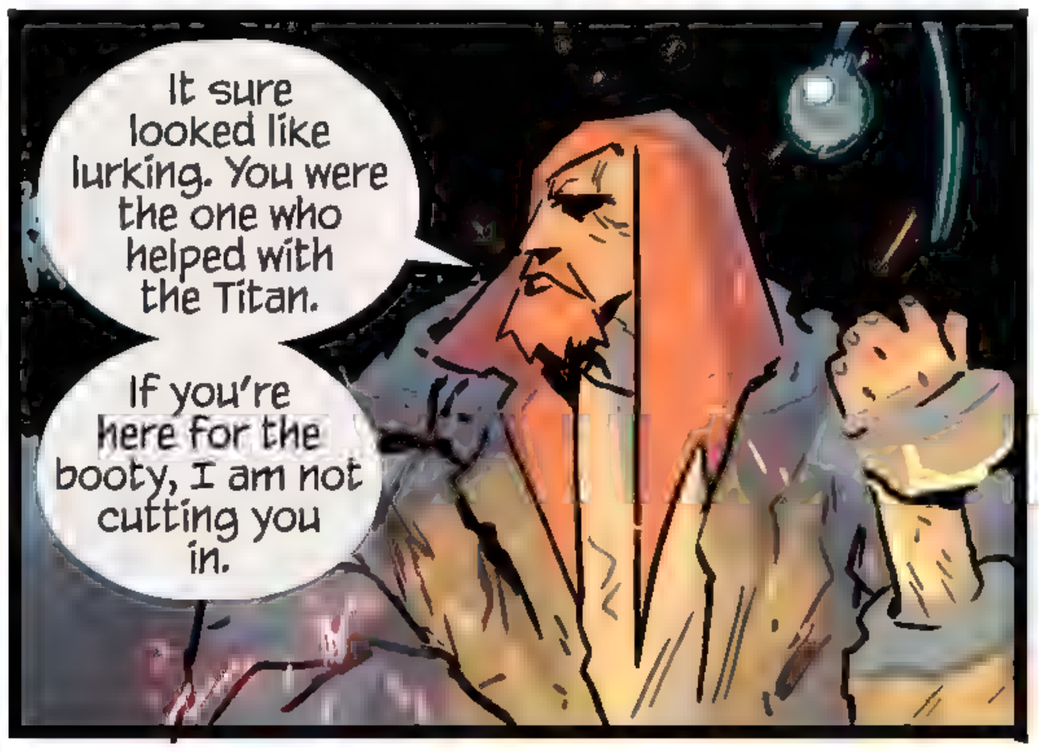
This is going to be a problem, isn't it?
Almost definitely. But it's my very favorite kind of problem, Sheriff.

Somebody else's.




So are you going to lurk about all night?

I was observing.

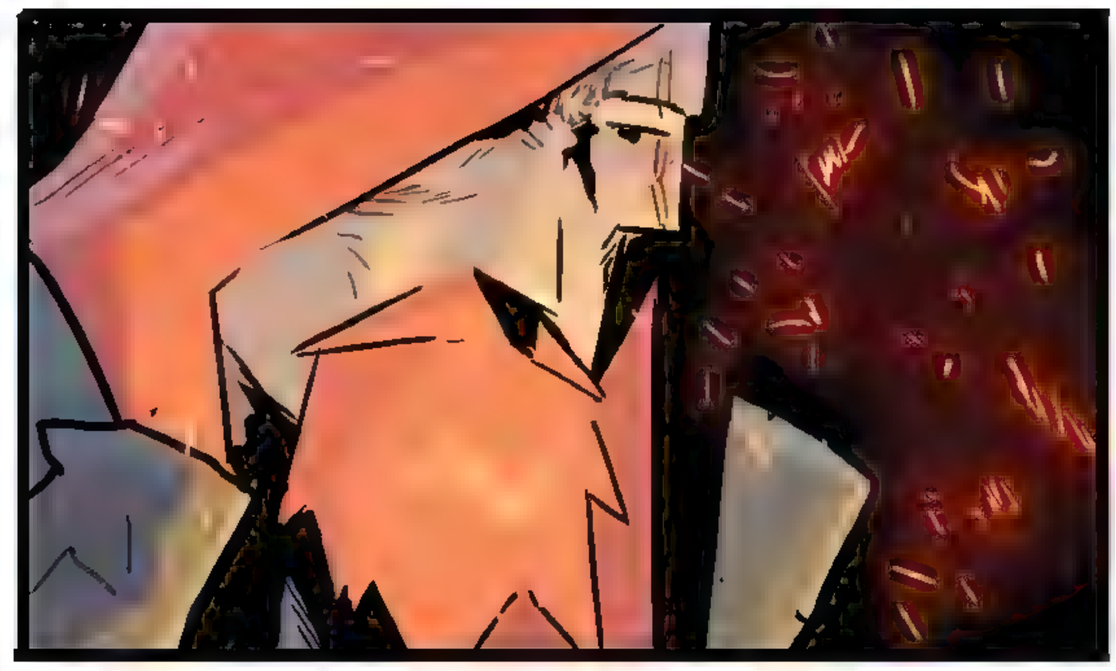

It sure looked like lurking. You were the one who helped with the Titan.
If you're here for the booty, I am not cutting you in.

I don't care about that, I care about you.

Well, that's a first. I'm not sure I've ever been cared about. Feels...pretty much the same as not being cared about.
Not sure why you'd care about me, you don't even know me.

I do. You were born at the same time as two brothers, and they look just like you. You were always bigger and stronger than everyone else. When you're hurt, you recover in days. Everywhere you go, trouble follows.
I know what you are, Strayer.

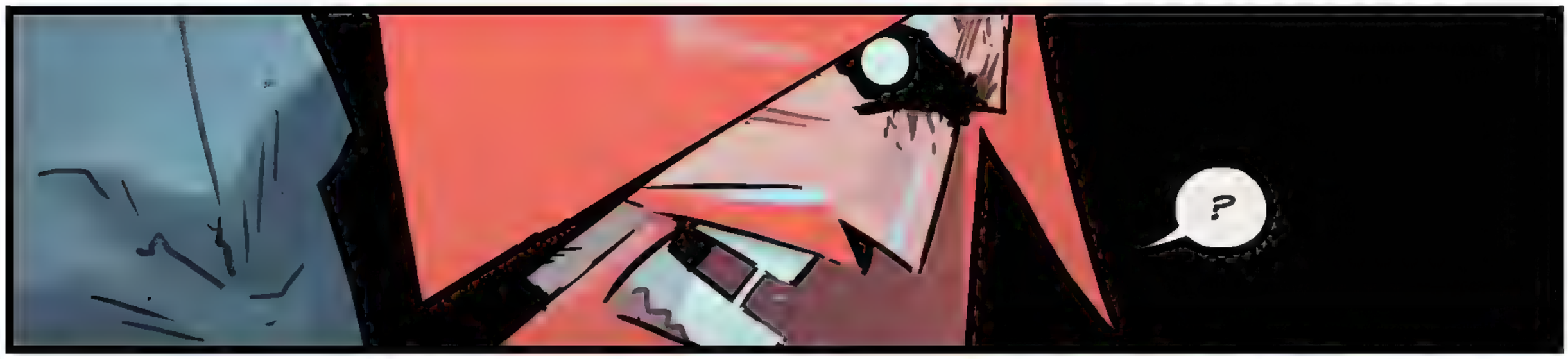
I am **Mala Tenboom,** last of the Archemancers. I know the hidden secrets of the world and if you help me to do what I need I shall tell you all of the secrets of your lineage--**if** you help me in my quest. You will know what you were **meant** to be.



Pass.

I... what?
You got a nice pitch, but sister, what you're selling, I'm not buying. So yeah, pass.
Dammit.

Must everything be done the hard way?


?

Urk.

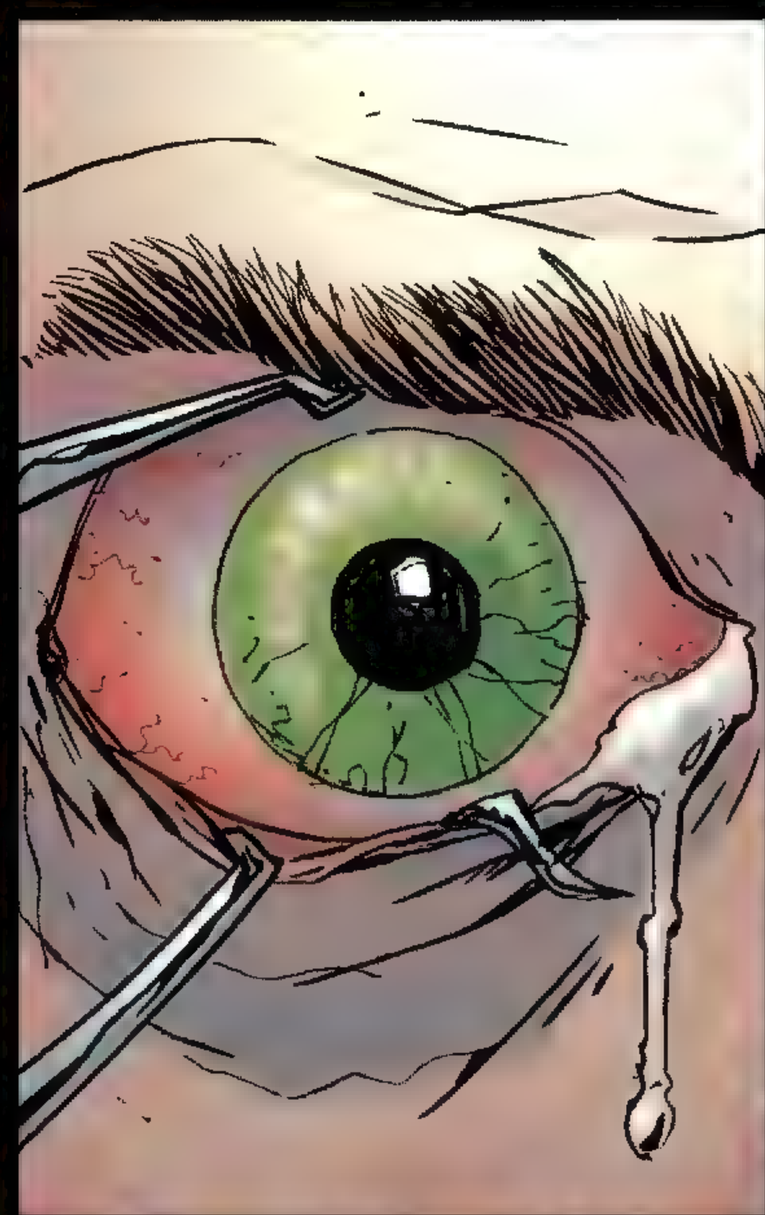
Let me start again. I am Mala Tenboom. I am going to bring back the High Ages and the Time of Dreams. This will happen and you, Strayer, will help me.

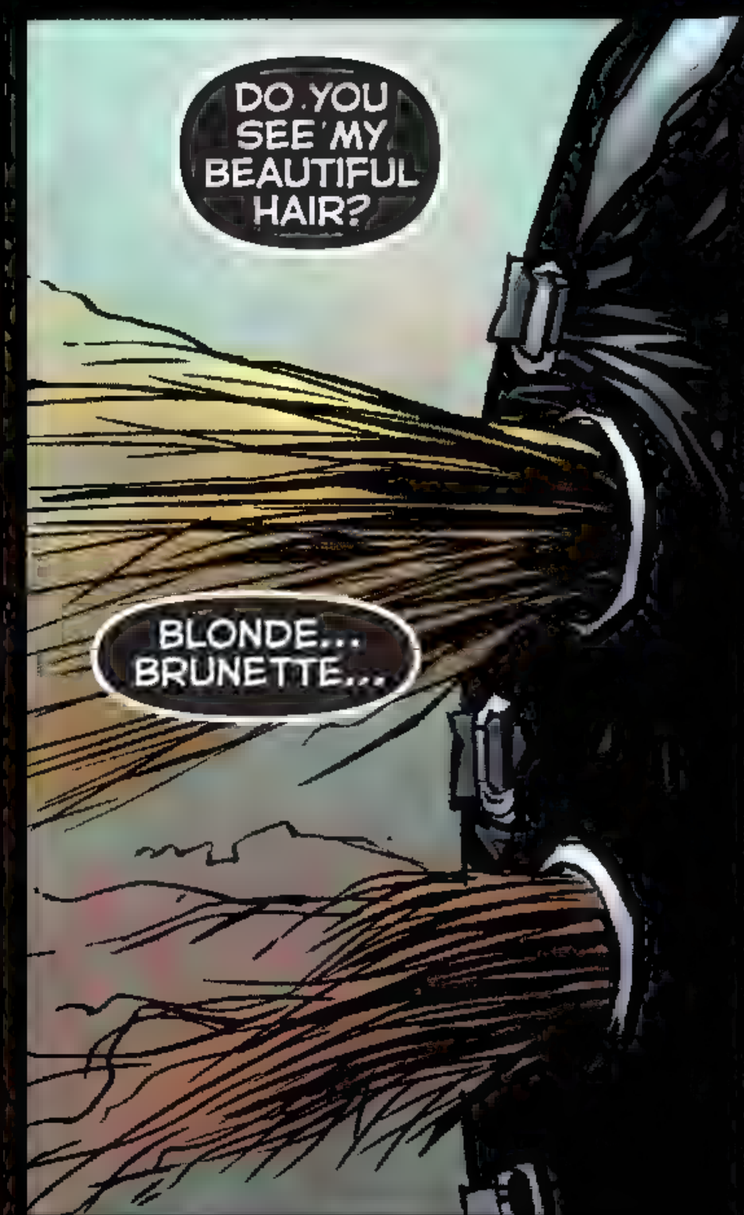
Whether you like it or not.
NEXT:
THE ROAD TO LALLAND!

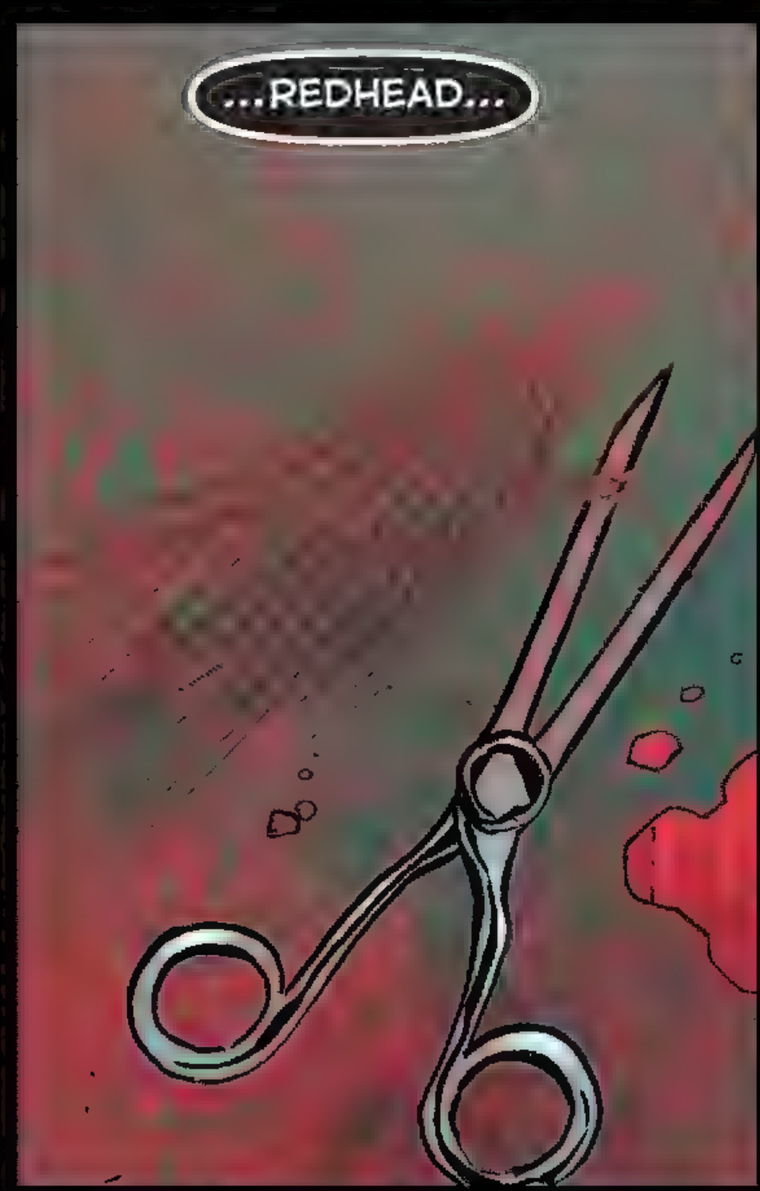
AFTERSHOCK
JUSTIN JORDAN • JUAN GEDEON
#2
STRAYER
GED EON 2015
Banvillain
ON SALE FEBRUARY 24TH!

from creator
DAVID HINE
and artist
ALBERTO PONTICELLI
comes a series you'll have to see to believe...
SECOND SIGHT™
SNEAK PREVIEW

DO YOU SEE?




DO YOU SEE MY BEAUTIFUL HAIR?
BLONDE... BRUNETTE...


...REDHEAD...

...MY GLEAMING CLAWS...

...MY SHINY, SHINY SKIN...

...MY BRIGHT WHITE TEETH...

...ALL MY OWN.

DO YOU SEE?

I KNOW HOW MUCH YOU LIKE TO WATCH.
BAD BOY

NOOOO
RAY.
NUUUHH
RAY! YOU NEED TO WAKE UP!
WHA--?
THERE'S A GUY DOWNSTAIRS, SAYS HE NEEDS TO TALK TO YOU.
AH, SHIT! SORRY, JOHN. OVERSLEPT.
SO WHAT DOES HE WANT?
IF HE'S LOOKING TO SELL ME HIS PRICELESS COLLECTION OF JEFFREY ARCHER FIRST EDITIONS, HE'S OUT OF LUCK.
GLENNY
SCOTCH WHISKY
15
YEARS

THE BIBLIOMANIAC
ANTIQUARIAN
SECOND HAND
BOOKS BOUGHT
RAY PILGRIM IS INSIDE. ANDY'S TALKING TO HIM.
YEAH, YEAH. I'M GOING IN NOW.
JUST AN INNOCENT CUSTOMER WITH A HANDY CAMERA PHONE.
ESOTERIC AND OCCULT
VICTORIAN EROTICA
VINTAGE CRIME
CAN WE JUST CUT THE CRAP?
YOU'RE A JOURNALIST, AREN'T YOU?
BUSTED!
OKAY, YOU GOT ME. BUT HEY, I NEVER STOOD A CHANCE.
I MEAN, YOU ARE PSYCHIC, RIGHT?
FOR CRYING OUT LOUD. I'M DONE WITH THAT.
IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A STORY, YOU'RE TWENTY YEARS TOO LATE.
NO, NO. YOU'RE NOT THE STORY. I WAS LOOKING TO GET A COMMENT FROM YOU ABOUT YOUR DAUGHTER.
TONI SEEMS TO BE FOLLOWING IN YOUR FOOTSTEPS, DOESN'T SHE?
SECOND SIGHT
TO FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENS NEXT, PICK UP
#1 on sale FEB 10th!

ON SALE FROM AFTERSHOCK™ THIS MONTH

ABOUT THE CREATORS OF

STRAYER™

JUSTIN JORDAN writer

@Justin_Jordan

Justin Jordan broke into comics with *The Strange Talent of Luther Strode* with Tradd Moore at Image. Since then, he's written two more *Strode* series for Image, as well as *Dead Body Road* with Matteo Scalera and *Spread* with Kyle Strahm. He's recently written the creator-owned series *Deep State* and *John Flood* for BOOM! He rebooted *Shadowman* for Valiant and *Team 7* for DC's New 52. His other works have included *The Adventures of Superman, Deathstroke, Superboy* and, most recently, a two-year run on *Green Lantern: New Guardians*. He lives in very rural Pennsylvania with a cat named Tom Waits. Who is a girl. And adorable.

JUAN GEDEON artist

@juan_gedeon

Juan Gedeon was born in Argentina in 1987. He started doing storyboards, illustrations and animatics at age 18. After that, he did countless comic pitches for independent writers that never got picked up. Juan lived in Mexico for four years where he produced storyboards and layouts for an animated movie. After chomping at the bit for almost ten years, he drew *Ghost Racers* for Marvel Comics in 2015.

TAMRA BONVILLAIN colorist

@TBonvillain

Tamra Bonvillain graduated from the Joe Kubert School in 2009. For the next four years, she worked at Spiderwebart for Greg Hildbrandt and Jean Scrocco doing design work, retouching paintings, cleaning/scanning drawings, and other various tasks. While there she began coloring in her off hours, eventually moving back near her hometown to pursue coloring full time. She is currently coloring *Strayer, Rat Queens, Wayward, Moon Girl and Devil Dinosaur, John Flood,* and more.

RACHEL DEERING letterer

@racheldeering

Rachel Deering is an Eisner and Harvey award-nominated writer, editor, and letterer. She has worked in some capacity for nearly every publisher in the industry, but is perhaps best known for her efforts on the massive horror anthology, *In the Dark* and her writing in *Creepy*. She enjoys collecting arcade cabinets, monster masks, and vinyl records in her spare time.

SON OF ULTRON